



Arizona Manufacturing Summit

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, October 3, 2014

Thank you, Glenn ... and good afternoon, everyone!

I'm delighted to be with you today ... and honored to share in this special celebration of Arizona manufacturing.

You know, you cannot talk about Arizona manufacturing without also mentioning my good friend, Mark Dobbins.

What Mark has done in leading the Arizona Association of Industries – before its merger with the Arizona Chamber – his leadership as Chair of the Arizona Manufacturers Council – and then as Chairman of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry – defines the very meaning of skill and foresight.

Mark's keen understanding of the state and its manufacturing needs are forever tied to the Arizona Comeback.

I know he could not be here today, but I did want to say, thank you, Mark, for all you have done for Arizona.

And let me also take a moment to recognize the leadership of Glenn Hamer and Steve Macias for their tireless work on behalf of all of us here in helping make Arizona one of the most competitive states in the country.

Thank you for your great leadership of the Arizona Chamber, Glenn.

And, thank you, Steve – not only for your work on the Arizona Manufacturers Council – but also for your outstanding work on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Commerce Authority.

You all have been incredible partners as we continued to push away obstacles to our recovery – starting with our Competitiveness Package.

Together we've made great strides with historic tax reforms that have removed obstacles to business expansion and relocation in Arizona.

We made our corporate tax rate more regionally competitive. We enhanced our tax formula to help create a stronger and more diverse base of Arizona employers who export their products, both goods and services, nationally and internationally.

We made our property tax system more fair, more equitable, and more nationally competitive on how we tax the value of commercial real estate and business equipment.

We simplified our unnecessarily complicated sales tax code, creating a uniform audit system, a single filing and tax collection point, and released thousands of hard working service and repair contractors from the administratively burdensome and unfair prime contracting tax.

And then we eliminated the sales tax on electricity and natural gas for manufacturers ... a feature of our tax system that had been unnecessarily drawing negative attention to the costs of producing goods in Arizona.

I should also mention here that we've made dramatic improvement to our tort reform system, including relief from punitive damages for companies that are following applicable state and federal rules ... and, we're even taking junk science out of the courtroom.

The sign that says "ARIZONA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS" now shines brighter than it ever has before.

Working together, we've lowered and simplified taxes – cut red tape – and pushed government out of the way as Arizona continues to thrive under my regulatory moratorium.

Yes, we've done mighty work on behalf of business success and job creation – we've done all this while never losing sight of the fact that the vast majority of manufacturing in Arizona includes businesses with less than 50 employees.

But, I didn't come here this afternoon to do victory laps with you. I've come instead to honor all that YOU have done for this state and its awesome recovery.

As you all know, my service to the people of Arizona – to the state I love – is drawing to a close.

The time I've spent in public office has been filled with extraordinary days – as Paul Simon wrote – Days of Miracle and Wonder.

Those days of miracle and wonder have given me the opportunity to fight alongside all of you – champions of freedom and prosperity – who are manufacturing a great future for Arizona.

So, Steve, if you will join me ... I'm delighted to present you with this official proclamation declaring that October is ARIZONA MANUFACTURERS MONTH.

May God bless you, and your families ... may He bless the great state of Arizona ... and may He always bless and protect the United States of America!

Thank you!